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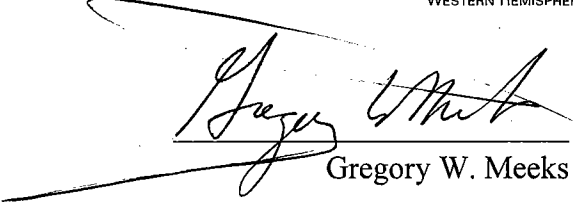
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

GREGORY W. MEEKS
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Gregory W. Meeks

March 9, 2010
For the Congressional Record
Rep. Gregory W. Meeks
STATEMENT for Peter Hakim of InterAmerican Dialogue

It is my honor to congratulate Peter Hakim for his tremendous work in leading the Inter-American Dialogue for over 16 years. It is impossible to fully express in words what he has accomplished as President. As a leader, Peter has facilitated discussion, cooperation and understanding of some of the toughest issues confronting our hemisphere and generated conversations among leaders that inevitably bettered our ability to work together. Whether on drug policy, immigration, the plight of Afro-Latinos or countless other issues, I have seen the fruits of his labor and I believe the legacy of success will be a model for future leaders to follow. Although Peter will now move on as President Emeritus, I am heartened to know that Michael Shifter will continue the momentum. Michael's role at the Dialogue has already shown us his exemplary work on the policies affecting the Americas. His work as president of the organization will no doubt be exemplary as well.

The list of Peter's accomplishments is long and my time is short, but I will end with this: I wish all the best to Peter and look forward to Michael Shifter now running with the baton.